

*Claudia Sherrill*  
*06-2-2*

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**Claudia Sherrill**  
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Mission Statement - "Elk Grove Unified School District will provide a learning community that challenges ALL students to realize their greatest potential."

February 21, 2006

Dr. Robert Sawyer, Chair  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: February 23, 2006 Agenda Item 06-2-2 - Public Meeting to Consider the 2005-2006 Lower-Emission School Bus Guidelines and Funding Allocation**

Dear Dr. Sawyer,

The Sacramento School Bus Consortium formed over 10 years ago to respond to the original "Katz" school bus programs and has been meeting on a monthly basis since that time. Our members have experience with methanol, natural gas, advanced diesel and particulate retrofit technologies. In fact, we have served as the field trial site for a number of these technologies during their development.

Currently Sacramento Consortium members operate John Deere and Cummins natural gas buses in daily service as well as particulate retrofits from Cleaire, Donaldson and Johnson Matthey. These buses all serve to provide a reduction of pollutant exposure to one of our most sensitive populations, children. However, not all of our community's buses have been fitted with advanced pollution controls and we believe that this current funding, along with continued future funding, is critical to providing the healthiest environment possible.

All of the technologies currently deployed are working well in our member school districts. I would like to offer some additional information on the most recently deployed product, the Cleaire Horizon™. The Elk Grove Unified School District is currently operating in daily service 49 Horizon systems funded with Consent Decree monies from Cummins Engine Company. The experience with these systems has been extremely positive and they have been very easy to use and manage. The buses typically operate five to six hours daily and require particulate regeneration approximately once every three weeks. Part of the funding paid for the installation of 10 regeneration stations. Elk Grove is very pleased that their entire fleet of Type I buses are either natural gas or equipped with Horizon filters. Based on this experience other member school districts are anxious to apply for Horizon systems for their operations.

The Sacramento School Bus Consortium is excited about the opportunity to continue to deploy advanced emission control technologies in our fleets. We encourage the California Air Resources Board to adopt the proposed guidelines and funding allocations as written and release the program.

Sincerely,

**Claudia Sherrill**  
Director of Transportation  
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